

# Cultural Arts Funding Overview

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AUGUST 21, 2023

# Holistic Funding Ecosystem

Closed August 15

Nexus

Nurture new and emerging applicants by funding creative public projects developed through community activation and/or collaboration.

Panels start  
Wed. Aug 25

Elevate

Creative and administrative expenses of cultural producers that amplify equity and prioritize inclusive programming.

Thrive

*Focused investment to sustain and grow arts organizations that are deeply rooted in, and reflective of Austin's diverse cultures.*



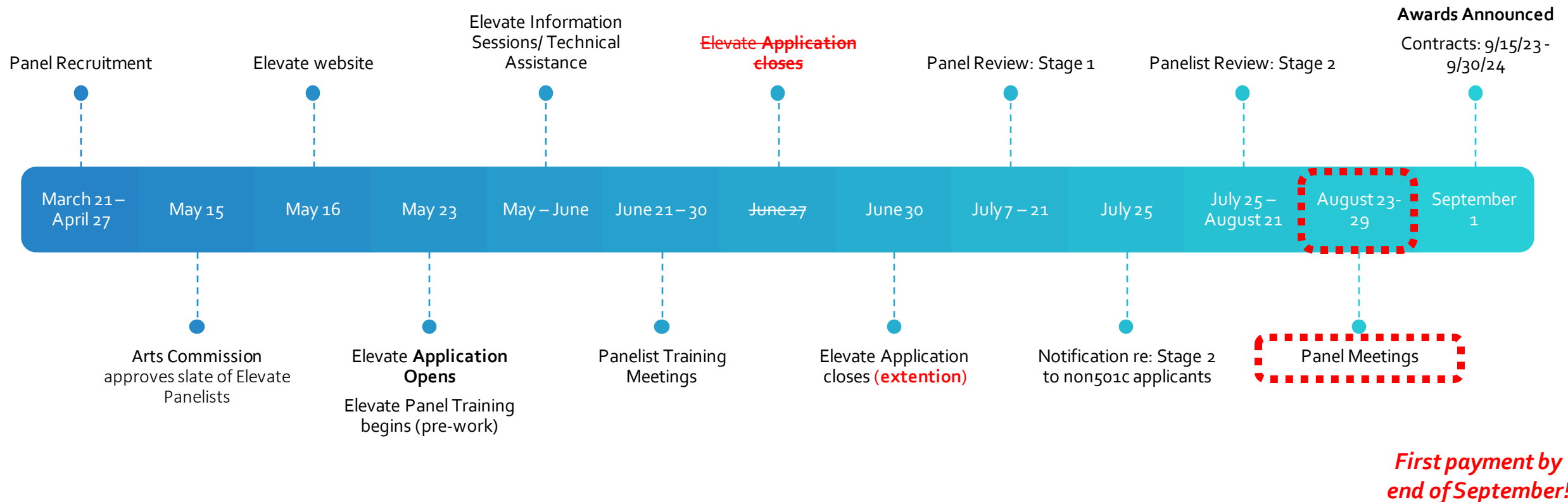
**Largest Program \$6,250,000!**



# Pilot Program **Elevate** in Detail

	Elevate	
	Elevate (Non-501c)	Elevate+ (501c only)
Goal	Support established cultural producers	
Contract Term	1 year	1 year
Type of Funding	Flexible: Project/Operating	Flexible: Project/Operating
Who can apply?	Artists; Arts/Culture Groups w/ budgets <\$500k	Arts/Culture 501(c)s only
Selection Process	Panel	Panel
Total Available Funds	\$1,250,000	\$5,000,000
Award Amounts	\$10,000 - \$25,000	\$30,000 - \$75,000
Number of Awardees	75	125

# Elevate Key Dates (*updated*)



# Elevate Highlights

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## 5 Facilitators trained by June 20th

### Panel Training

- **100** people trained
- Orientation Materials (pre-work)
  - 3 hrs long; Independently
- **10 Group Training Meetings**
  - June 21st – 30th
  - 2 hrs long; led by Facilitator
  - *"Congratulations on a great rubric and how you addressed nuances...wow... I feel like you all listened very carefully to organization feedback through the years"*

## 4 Spanish Applications Received

### Applicant Assistance

- Weekly Open-Office Hours 10-Noon (hybrid)
  - **12 hours** total
- Virtual/In Person Workshops
  - **5 hours** Virtual Info-Workshops
  - **4 hours** In-Person Info-Workshops
  - **30 Hours** of Hybrid Drop-In Assistance
- **3-hour** session with ASL Interpreters
- **15+ hours** of dedicated Spanish support
- **263** people assisted in public meetings

# Elevate Application Summary

762 applications started

480 applications successfully submitted

441 Unique/ Eligible applications (duplicates removed)

## REVIEW Process

259  
non501c  
applications

All went to  
Stage 1 Review  
(Reader)

125 will go to  
Stage 2 Review  
(Panel/Mtgs)

75 will be  
awarded

182 501c  
applications

SKIP Stage 1  
Review  
(Reader)

All are going to  
Stage 2 Review  
(Panel/Mtgs)

125 will be  
awarded

# Elevate Stage 2: Panel Dates *(details)*

## Elevate+ (501c only) Panel A

- **61** applications (\$135k+)
- 7 Panelists Review & Score ALL
  - July 14 – August 21
- Panel Meeting #1 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 23**; 9am – 4pm
- Panel Meeting #2 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 24**; 9am – 4pm

## Elevate+ (501c only) Panel B

- **61** Applications (\$43-134k)
- 7 Panelists Review & Score ALL
  - July 14 – August 21
- Panel Meeting #1 (Zoom Webinar)
  - August 25; 9am – 4pm
- Panel Meeting #2 (Zoom Webinar)
  - August 26; 9am – 4pm

## Elevate+ (501c only) Panel C

- **60** Applications (under \$43k)
- 7 Panelists Review & Score ALL
  - July 14 – August 21
- Panel Meeting #1 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 28**; 9am – 4pm
- Panel Meeting #2 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 29**; 9am – 4pm

## Elevate (NON 501c) Panel X

- **42** applications
- Review & Score
  - July 14 – August 21
- Panel Meeting #1 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 24**; 9am – 4pm
- Panel Meeting #2 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 25**; 9am – Noon

## Elevate (NON 501c) Panel Y

- **42** Applications
- Review & Score
  - July 14 – August 21
- Panel Meeting #1 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 25**; 1pm – 4pm
- Panel Meeting #2 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 26**; 9am – 4pm

## Elevate (NON 501c) Panel Z

- **41** Applications
- Review & Score
  - July 14 – August 21
- Panel Meeting #1 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 28**; 9am – 4pm
- Panel Meeting #2 (Zoom Webinar)
  - **August 29**; 9am – Noon



# Pilot Program Nexus Overview

	Nexus
Goal	Encourage new talent
Contract Term	6 Months
Type of Funding	Project Funding Only
Who can apply?	Individuals/ Groups* <small>(*cooperatives, non-profit organizations, businesses, partnerships, etc.)</small>
Selection Process	3 COA Staff + Rubric
Total Available Funds	~\$500,000
Award Amounts	\$5,000
Number of Awardees	100 <i>(50 per cycle; 2 cycles/year)</i>





# Nexus Scoring Rubric

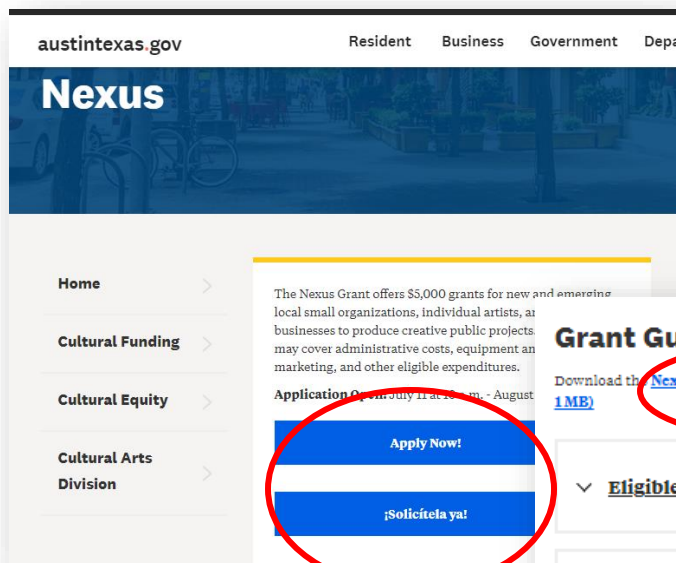
Nexus Scoring Category	Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points
Operations	Mission & Key Constituencies	15
	First-time applicant	10
	Budget	10
	Cultural Leadership	15
		50
Cultural and Social Impact	Cultural Activities	10
	Creative Collaboration	10
	Accessibility	20
	Programmatic Reach	10
		50



**Closed**  
**August 15**

[www.austintexas.gov/Nexus](http://www.austintexas.gov/Nexus)

# Nexus Resources



**Download Guidelines!**

**Application Questions!**

## Grant Guidelines

Download the [Nexus Grant Guidelines \(PDF, 1.1 MB\)](#), [Nexus Directrices \(PDF, 1 MB\)](#)

### Eligible Applicants

### Eligible Activities and Expenses

#### Budget

How will you use these funds to produce your event? Your answer could address:

- Explanation of expenses in production of activities
- Uploaded Budget Form should be reflective of this narrative

Application reviewers will review this response in addition to the uploaded Budget Form to review the applicant's financial history and financial practices.

Up to 10 Points

## Application Details

Preview the application questions to help prepare. Applications will not be accepted via email or mail. The application must be submitted through the [application home page](#) only.

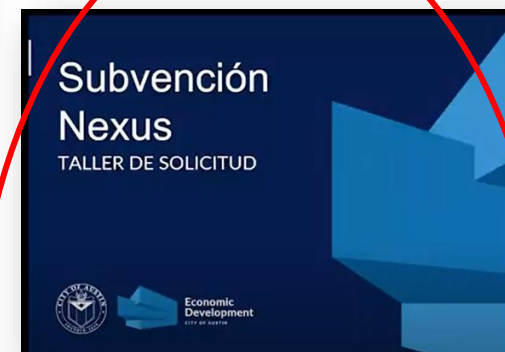
### Eligibility Questions

- Is 50% or more of your work produced or presented within the City of Austin Council Districts or extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ)?
- If yes, has your work been produced or presented within the City of Austin Council Districts or extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) for one or more years?
- Are activities in your proposal open to and marketed to tourists? If you are an arts service organization that supports artists and arts organizations with their own public activities, answer "yes."
- If you are currently receiving funding through any other City of Austin department or program (excluding pandemic relief programs), please disclose.
- Budget history lists most recently completed fiscal year's budget \$150,000 or less

### Application Questions

- What is the applicant's mission, vision, and primary production history? Please describe your key constituencies and provide information about the applicant's service to them.
- Have you received City of Austin Cultural Funding in the last 5 years?
- Who holds power in your organization and how do they represent your community?
- How will you use these funds to produce your event?
- What are your proposed activities?
- Provide the name(s) of creative collaborator(s). Describe your collaborator's role in the development and implementation of your proposed activities.
- Describe your organization's specialized programming and accommodations for individuals with disabilities, if any.
- Describe your organization's specialized language access accommodations or programming for non-English speaking communities, if any.
- How will the requested funding help you expand your programmatic reach and amplify Austin's diverse arts and cultural sector?

### Application Materials



**Link to apply!**

**Detailed rubric descriptions!**

**Links to videos!**



# Nexus Application Assistance

## Assistance

The Economic Development Department is offering various ways for the community to learn about the Nexus Grant application process and eligibility.

Attend [Cultural Arts Virtual Open Office Hours](#) on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon until August 15.

[Register to attend a Nexus Workshop in-person.](#)

- July 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - [In the Know: Grant Writing](#)
- July 29, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - [In the Know: Community Engagement](#)
- August 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - [In the Know: Budgeting](#)

Attend Let's Apply Together: 1:1 in-person help from staff

- Sunday, July 23, 12-3 p.m. @ RichesArt - [RSVP](#)
- Sunday, August 6, 12-3 p.m. @ Contracommon - [RSVP](#)
- Tuesday, August 15, 12-3 p.m. @ Art HQ - [RSVP](#)

Attend Virtual Drop-In Sessions

- Monday, August 14, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - [Join the Meeting](#)
- Tuesday, August 15, 12 - 4 p.m. - [Join the Meeting](#)

Watch a pre-recorded workshop:

- [Nexus Grant Workshop in English](#)
- [Taller sobre la subvención Nexus en español](#)

For technical challenges, [submit a technical assistance ticket](#).

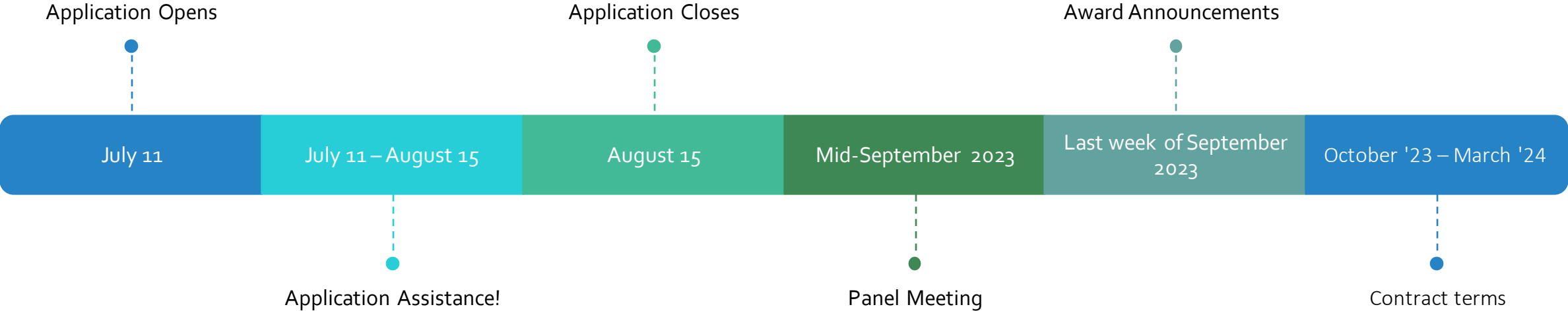
The screenshot shows the 'Almost Real Things' website. The header includes the organization's name and a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, MAGAZINE, EVENTS, ART HQ, ART BUS, and SHOP. The main content area features a large heading 'Community Amplifier' with a fingerprint icon and the tagline 'Connecting artists to opportunities to make a living'. Below this, there is a section titled 'WHAT IS IT?' which describes a partnership with the City of Austin's Cultural Arts Division and Economic Development Department to amplify outreach about resources and funding opportunities. A photo of a group of people is shown. Further down, there are sections for 'CURRENT OPPORTUNITY' (Nexus Grant for Creative Collaboration) and 'HAVE A QUESTION?' (providing contact information and a link to the Nexus Grant page).

The screenshot shows the 'Community Amplifier: Nexus Workshops' page. It features a heading 'Community Amplifier: Nexus Workshops' and a subheading 'In the Know'. The page lists three workshops: 'In the Know: Grant Writing with Lys Santamaria' (Wednesday, July 19, 6:30-8:30 PM @ DADALAB), 'In the Know: Community Engagement with Miriam Conner' (Saturday, July 29, 10AM-12PM @ LATINITAS), and 'In the Know: Budgeting with Ashland Viscosi' (Thursday, August 3, 6:30-8:30 PM @ SPRINGDALE STATION). Each workshop has an 'RSVP' button. Below this, there is a section titled 'Let's Apply Together' which describes a communal atmosphere for applying. It lists three sessions: 'Let's Apply Together' (Sunday, July 23, 12-3 PM @ RICHESART), 'Let's Apply Together' (Sunday, August 6, 12-3 PM @ CONTRACOMMON), and 'Let's Apply Together' (Tuesday, August 15, 12-3 PM @ ART HQ). Each session has an 'RSVP' button. The page also includes a list of benefits: Spanish-speaking staff and translated materials onsite, ASL interpretation available as needed, sessions will be recorded, and refreshments provided.

For application assistance, contact **Almost Real Things** at [Hello@almostrealthings.com](mailto:Hello@almostrealthings.com) or by phone at [512-814-8318](tel:512-814-8318).



# Nexus Timeline (*first cycle!*)



- Cycle 2:** Application Opens **January 2024** (events April '24 – September '24); 50 awards
- Cycle 3:** Application Opens **July 2024** (events October '24 – March '25); 50 awards

# Nexus Application Summary

619 applications started

295 applications successfully submitted

245 Unique/ Eligible applications (duplicates removed)

REVIEW Process

245 eligible applications

All will be staff reviewed

6 Economic Development Department Staff

Elevate recipients will be removed from review

50 will be awarded end of September

# Target Concern: Elevate vs Nexus

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**Did you apply for Elevate and want to know if you can also apply for Nexus?**

- **YES!**
- You can apply in Nexus for the same project **but** if you receive an Elevate grant your Nexus application would be pulled from consideration.
- You can wait until the week of July 25 to start your Nexus application, as that is when we will be sending out announcements letting applicants know if their application has advanced to the full panel or not.



# Of Interest: Artist Career Training

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Now Open: [Artist Career Training program](#)

## What is it?

- Six-week business training (September 20 and ends October 25) aims to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage a profitable business in the creative industries.
- Curriculum covers vital aspects such as business planning, marketing, and funding.
- Professionals from all artistic disciplines can apply online.
- 24 creative professionals will be accepted.

**Deadline: Tuesday, August 15 at 5 p.m.**

Applicants are encouraged to attend the [2023 Artist Career Training Information Session](#) on **Wednesday, July 19** from 6-8 p.m at the EDD Office: 5202 E Ben White Blvd, Suite 400.



# Now Open: Arts Education Grant!

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- Funds come from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants to Local Arts Agencies for Subgranting
- **19** Awards to Arts Education Non-Profits
- **\$25,000** flat grant
- Application Opens: Tuesday, **August 8** at 10am
- Application Deadline: Tuesday, **September 12** at 5pm
- Panel review: **September 27th**
- Award announcements: **September 29th**
- Community Partner: **MINDPOP**

## KEY ELEMENTS

- This program funds **arts education non-profits**
- Arts Education activities **primarily serve** participants **from early childhood through 18 years**
- **At least 50% of the award must be paid to teaching artists** providing direct services to students